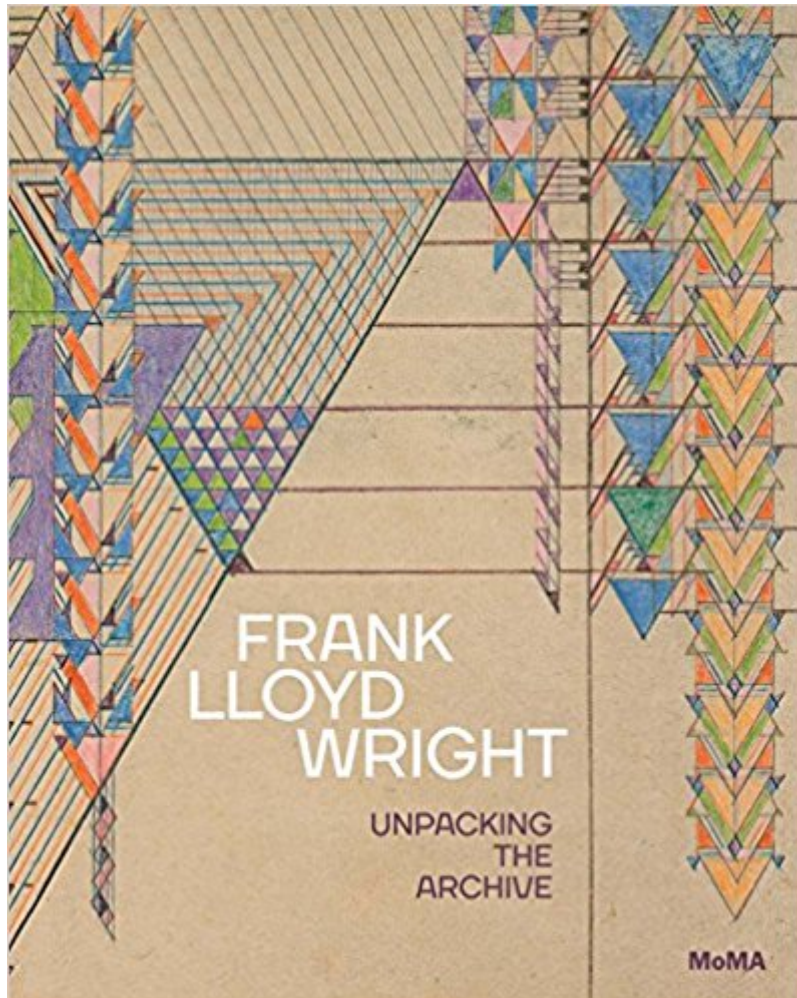


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# Frank Lloyd Wright: Unpacking The Archive



## Synopsis

Unpacking Wright's archive of more than two million objects, on the 150th anniversary of the master architect's birth. Published for a major exhibition at The Museum of Modern Art, this catalog reveals new perspectives on the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, a designer so prolific and familiar as to nearly preclude critical reexamination. Structured as a series of inquiries into the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives at Taliesin West, Arizona (recently acquired by MoMA and Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University), the book is a collection of scholarly explorations rather than an attempt to construct a master narrative. Each chapter centers on a key object from the archive that an invited author has "unpacked" — tracing its meanings and connections, and juxtaposing it with other works from the archive, from MoMA, or from outside collections. Wright's quest to build a mile-high skyscraper reveals him to be one of the earliest celebrity architects, using television, press relations and other forms of mass media to advance his own self-crafted image. A little-known project for a Rosenwald School for African-American children, together with other projects that engage Japanese and Native American culture, ask provocative questions about Wright's positions on race and cultural identity. Still other investigations engage the architect's lifelong dedication to affordable and do-it-yourself housing, as well as the ecological systems, both social and environmental, that informed his approach to cities, landscapes and even ornament. The publication aims to open up Wright's work to questions, interrogations and debates, and to highlight interpretations by contemporary scholars, both established Wright experts and others considering this iconic figure from new and illuminating perspectives.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: The Museum of Modern Art (June 27, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1633450260

ISBN-13: 978-1633450264

Product Dimensions: 9.8 x 1.1 x 12.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 36 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #14,260 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Arts &

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## Customer Reviews

Clearly written and tightly focused... this hefty volume would be a nice library addition for general readers curious about American urban history. (Marilyn Gates New York Journal of Books) Frank Lloyd Wright was a radical architect, designer, thinker, and intellectual. (Lauren Walsler National Trust for Historic Preservation) remarkable... a fresh age in Wright scholarship [shows](#) that Wright's long career, as multidimensional and accomplished as that of almost any architect in history, was richer and more complex than even admiring critics knew. (Paul Goldberger Bloomberg Business Week) a fascinating window into America's cultural past... read the short, sharp essays in the catalog (Alexandra Lange Curbed) Positions the architect as a consummate innovator -- not outside of history, but very much of his time, with ideas that resonate still. (Kristina Ljubanovic The Globe and Mail) He was the man called 'the Michelangelo of the 20th century' by the architect Eero Saarinen, so it's no surprise that 150 years after his birth, the work of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright still provides plenty to unpack. (Olivia B. Waxman Time) Frank Lloyd Wright is synonymous with American architecture. (Alexandra Alexa Artsy) an ambitious catalogue featuring wide-ranging essays (Jonathan Glancey The Art Newspaper) It is always the year of Frank Lloyd Wright, so monumentally does he loom over American architecture. (Paul Goldberger Vanity Fair) The words 'American architect' feel a little bare when applied to Wright; convention pushes for the addition of a superlative, such as 'greatest' or 'best loved.' (Will Wiles Apollo)

This is a superb book on America's Greatest Architect. As an Architect and Owner of a Frank Lloyd Wright house, I am very knowledgeable of FLW and I purchase every serious book published on FLW and his work. This wonderful book is loaded with superb photographs, superb drawings, many of which that have never been published before. Brooks Pfeiffer is a former Taliesin Apprentice and has had key responsibility for the operation of Taliesin West. He has access to full depth of the FLW Archives and is incredibly knowledgeable of them. His other books on FLW are also well written and incredibly insightful. As an Architect living in a wonderful 1901 FLW House, I highly recommend this book.

Initially, I was very nervous about getting this, as I already had a book cover FLW's career over all and plenty of other specialty books on his architecture, but I was pleasantly surprised by how thorough this book is. It covers more than the Robert McCarter volume from several decade ago and touches on the many facets of his career, and supporting it with a rich assemblage of original drawings and floorplans, and with new and old photography. The size of the book is large but far more easy to handle than the even larger "complete works."

Loved Wright's work forever, it's still relevant today in the era of track homes, suburban sprawl, and the ever-spreading sameness that seems to plague my eyeballs. His designs are still better than 90% of the modern architects out there. He captures that Art Deco meets the future vibe perfectly. Some lovely sketches in here too that I'd never seen.

It is unfortunate that I can not give this book more than five stars. I have visited and photographed many of FLW's homes and this book is almost as good as seeing them in person. The color and black and white is fantastic! This book is a must have for anyone who is a fan of FLW and the incredible homes he built. The text is in three languages. Every time I pick up this book the photographs boggle my mind. I don't think this book can be improved upon. It is an affordable monument to FLW.

I purchased this for my husband and his initial excitement was a little lukewarm. However, once he actually began examining the book he was thrilled with it. A very thorough presentation for Wright admirers.

In order to connect the dots regarding the designing mind of Frank Lloyd Wright, this book has it all. This highly illustrated and comprehensive study is crafted like performance art. Form does follow function and the evolution of Wright's professional vision has become legend for the ages.

excellent book with great photos and history

Wonderful recap of the MOMA exhibit

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